

# *Coming to Your Senses*

(<http://webeye.ophth.uiowa.edu/ctys>)



## Mission Statement

***Coming to Your Senses (CTYS)*** is a joint project of the Lions Clubs of Iowa and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, dedicated to enhancing early detection and treatment of vision impairments in young children (target population 6 to 48 months of age) through screening and public education.

## Goals

- Objectively screen vision in infants and young children throughout all of Iowa's 99 counties at no cost to families.
- Educate the public about the risk of undetected vision loss.
- Identify ways to sustain vision-screening programs of this type.

## An Update for Health & Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee

CTYS is on target for meeting *all* twelve objectives outlined in the State Contract this fiscal year. Highlights include:

- Eighty-nine additional Iowa Lions Clubs volunteers have been trained to conduct vision-screening services in their local communities.
- An employee has been hired to set up and carry out follow-up activity on children who have been referred.
- A segment geared toward educating the public of undetected vision loss aired on KWVL TV in Waterloo (Dec. 2003), and was subsequently distributed to all television stations serving Iowa.
- With the increase in collaborations (e.g., AEAs, Empowerments), the number of children receiving vision screening is maintaining an increasing trend. (See data, pages 4-6.)

In addition, collaborations with the Iowa Optometric Association and the Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology have resulted the following statement (segment of October 23, 2003 press release):

"The Iowa Optometric Association and the Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology stress the importance of good vision and healthy eyes. Recognizing the importance of vision in learning, both organizations recommend that children between the ages of six months and four years, who do not show signs of visual defects, receive a scientifically validated vision screening to rule out undetected vision problems. If a parent suspects a vision problem, for their child of any age, both organizations recommend the child receive a comprehensive eye examination from an ophthalmologist or optometrist."

At the same time, the Iowa Optometric Association pledged \$12,000 annually for the next five years in support of *Coming to Your Senses*, and support of near \$15,000 has been pledged from individual members of the Iowa Academy of Ophthalmology.

## **Program Background**

### Why Screen Young Children?

- 3-5% of children may develop vision problems
- Earlier vision problems are detected the more easily and successfully corrected
- From a parent's perspective:

... "In October [2003], my 3 year old son, Britton, was screened at Kirkwood Kids Daycare center. Just this afternoon, we took him to the eye doctor. I really assumed it would just be a visit to reassure me that Britton didn't need glasses. He's developmentally advanced and has shown no apparent signs of vision problem. Plus, I don't wear glasses, and my husband has only slight vision problems.

However, we found that Britton has some fairly severe vision problems. I was shocked and yet so relieved that this had been caught so early in his life. As a teacher, I know the difference good vision makes in a child's ability to excel academically and thrive emotionally.

So I thank you. I'm a conscientious parent, yet there is no way I would have ever suspected a vision problem. Without your services, Britton surely would have experienced a great deal of unnecessary difficulty in years to come. If there is ever a time that my husband or I could volunteer for your program, please keep us in mind. Thank you" . . .



### Why Target Children from 6 to 48 Months?

- Before 6 months most children's pupils will not dilate enough for a vision-screening photograph to be interpreted
- After 48 months there are other screening tools and programs for children who can effectively communicate specific problems

## How Does a Screening Work?

- Lions Club Contact initiates screening event in local community (e.g., with daycares, preschools, community advertised, with collaborative agencies)
- Parents complete Consent Form
- Trained Lions Club team conducts screening using an MTI PhotoScreener™ ([www.photoscreener.com](http://www.photoscreener.com))
- Screening photographs are mailed to Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences
- Photo Reader/Orthoptist interprets photographs
- Results are recorded, then mailed to parents (referral packets going to children in need)

## What Can the PhotoScreener™ Detect?

- Strabismus (crossed eyes)
- Refractive problems (need for glasses)
- Media Opacities (something inside the eye, e.g., cataract)

**Cost: Complete Eye Exam = ~\$149 per child, CTYS PhotoScreening = ~\$9.78 per child.**

## Personnel (\* = paid position, all others currently volunteer)

*(Steering Committee comprised of:)*

- Ophthalmology Medical Director, William E. Scott, M.D., Professor Emeritus, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, University of Iowa
- Project Coordinator, Lori Short, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences\*
- Photographic Reading Center Coordinator, Wanda Pfeifer, OC(C), COMT, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences\*
- Project Assistant, Diane Eglseder, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences\*
- Iowa Lions Clubs Project Director, Darrell Johnson (Humboldt, Iowa)
- President, Iowa Lions Foundation, Jim Appleget (Mitchellville, Iowa)
- Iowa Lions Foundation Project Trustee, Herman Kopitzke (Boone, Iowa)
- Iowa Lions Past Council Chair, Karen Kirberger (Center Point, Iowa)
- Lion Janet Grafft (Marengo, Iowa)

*(Other capacities:)*

- UI Student Employee/Office Assistant, Crystal Hansen\*
- UI Student Employee/Office Assistant, LaTika Speller\*

Lions Club District Operational Coordinators – currently twelve located around the state who coordinate screening activity and supply availability.

District Trainers – currently eleven located around the state who train, and supervise, Lions Club volunteers to conduct screenings.

Currently, 1425 Iowa Lions Clubs volunteers have been trained to conduct screening sessions around the state.

## Collaborators

The following groups aid the Iowa Lions Clubs in arranging screening opportunities: Iowa Area Education Agencies, Head Start Programs, WIC Clinics, and Iowa Empowerment Programs.

## Funding (beyond State support in fiscal year 2003-2004)

The Project has been made possible with financial support from Lions Clubs of Iowa, Iowa Lions Foundation, Lions Clubs International Foundation, Iowa Optometric Association, Wellmark Foundation of Iowa, Children's Miracle Network, and individual/group contributions.

The Program's state office is located within the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Pomerantz Family Pavilion, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, where a variety of administrative support has been made available.

## Results

<b>Program Statistics</b>			
	<b>Year 1</b> (May 2000-April 2001)	<b>Year 2</b> (May 2001-April 2002)	<b>Year 3</b> (May 2002-April 2003)
<b>Number of Sessions</b>	115	370	697
<b>Children Screened</b>	1577	5221	9527
<b>Referred (Rate)</b>	110 (6.98%)	277 (5.31%)	420 (4.41%)

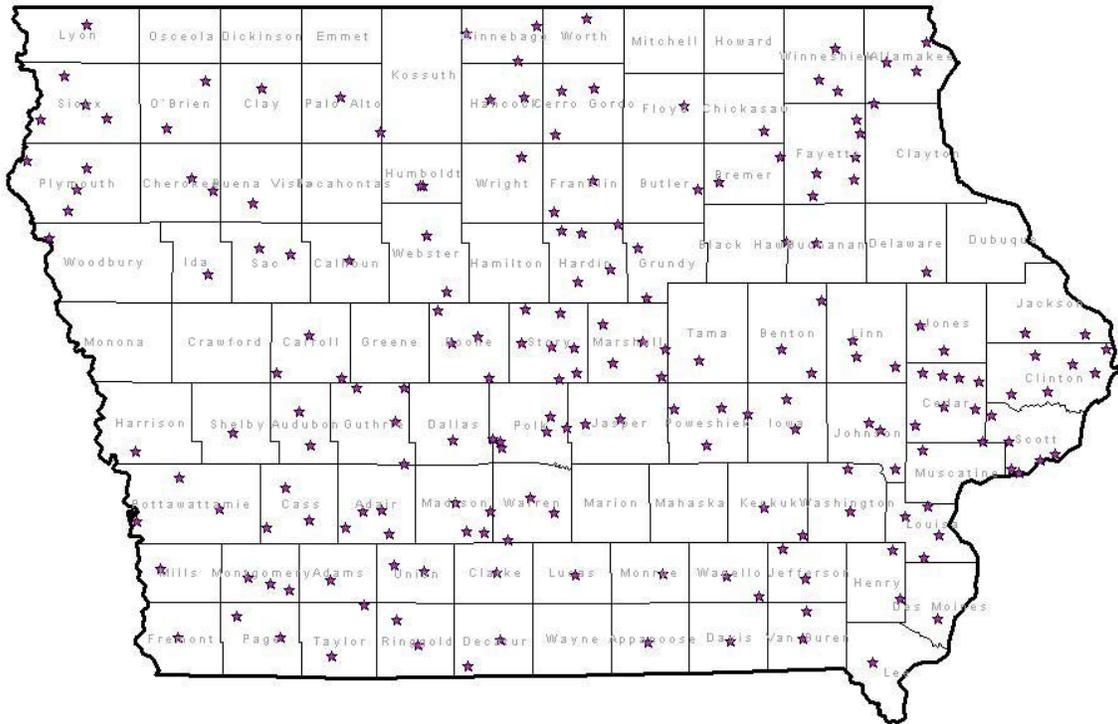
### May 2003 – January 2004

**683 sessions**

**9829 children screened**

**502 referred [5.11%]**

**Iowa Towns and Cities where *Coming To Your Senses*  
Screenings Have Been Conducted**

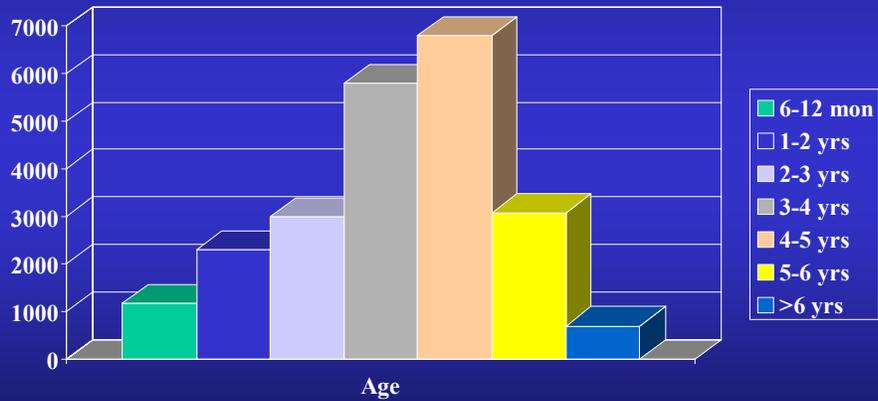


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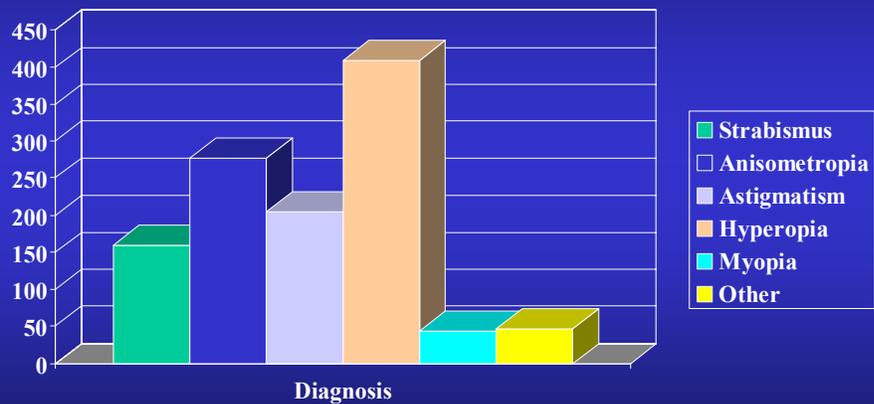
Since this map was created in August 2003, screenings have also been held in:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Albert City     | Moorhead       |
| Anita           | New Market     |
| Avoka           | Onawa          |
| Carter Lake     | Oskaloosa      |
| Clearfield      | Oxford         |
| College Springs | Perry          |
| Dexter          | Redfield       |
| Elliott         | Remsen         |
| Guthrie Center  | Rockford       |
| Jefferson       | Rudd           |
| Lewis           | Sergeant Bluff |
| Logan           | Shelby         |
| Lorimor         | Solon          |
| Malvern         | Taber          |
| Manly           | Wall Lake      |
| Marion          | Webster City   |
| Mediapolis      | Woodbine       |
| Menlo           | Yorktown       |

## Age Distribution



## Diagnosis of Referred



### Future Goals

- Increase awareness
- Increase number of children screened
- Increase follow-up rate on children being referred
- Increase collaborative efforts
- Secure permanent endowment/support

## *Coming to Your Senses*

### **Anticipated Budget Fiscal Year 2004 – 2005**

#### Personnel

Employees of University of Iowa  
Salaries + Fringe Benefits

Program Coordinator (FT)	\$ 62,000
Program Assistant (FT)	50,000
Photo Reader (PT)	34,000
UI Student Employees (2-PT)	7,250

Travel 7,150

#### Supplies

Vision-Screening Film (25,000 children x 2 exposures x \$0.97 + trainings)	49,000
Screening Session Supply Kits	4,250
Printing	5,000
Office Supplies (includes copying Result Form for each parent)	3,750
Postage, Freight & Phone	5,500

#### Equipment

PhotoScreener™ (calculating goal of adding two per year)	8,000
Replacement battery packs for existing PhotoScreeners™	800
Repairs	800

Follow-Up (phone, postage, supplies) 7,000

**TOTAL COST TO SCREEN 25,000 CHILDREN \$244,500**

**TOTAL COST PER CHILD \$9.78**